

O.E. ROLVAAG HOUSE
311 Manitou Street
Northfield
Rice County
Minnesota

HABS NO. MN-81

HABS
MINN,
66-NOF1,

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Minnesota	COUNTY Rice	TOWN OR VICINITY Northfield
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) O.E. ROLVAAG HOUSE		HABS NO. MN-81
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 311 Manitou Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1912 (National Register nomination)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Home of O.E. Rolvaag, the first American novelist to give a true accounting of the psychological cost of pioneering on the farmer's frontier. His famous trilogy- <u>Giants in the Earth</u> , <u>Peder Victorious</u> & <u>Their Father's God</u> stand as the most penetrating literary*		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Craftsman bungalow		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) wood frame with stuccoed first story and shingled second		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 1 1/2 story square house with dormered roof, rear, 1 1/2 story, rectangular wing		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE polychromatic with stucco, shingles, wood frame belt course and water table and rock-faced concrete block foundation. Bracketed eaves, large gable front dormer overhanging 1st story bay window.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) oak interior woodwork in living and dining rooms, library and entry hall; maple cabinets in kitchen.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Front porch enclosed in the late 1930's. The sleeping porch at the front of the house later became part of the expanded master bedroom. Kitchen & bath remodeled.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE residence in good condition		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE *assessment of the adjustments immigrant pioneers had to make to find peace and prosperity in middle America. An Norwegian immigrant himself, he wrote most of his works here. He built his house here because it was near St. Olaf College where he taught.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register nomination, prepared by Stephen Lissandrello, historian, Landmarks Review Project, Historic Sites Survey, NPS, 1978 Catalog of National Historic Landmarks		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION C. Lavoie, Historian, HABS/HAER		DATE Jan. 1989